













































Bevier,  
L.R.  
1997

545-01 - 1997

Journal

(1)

27 November

Pennsylvania: Northampton Co., near Raubsville  
coverage: search for reported Ash-throated Flycatcher at  
residence of Arlene Koch (1357 Raubsville Rd.).  
time: 11:40 - 14:15

habitat: farm residence w/ planted conifers, autumn olive,  
deciduous & evergreen shrubs; open fields w/ tree-  
lined edges

observers: up to 6 others, but by the time the bird  
reappeared Arlene and I were the only ones.

Ash-throated Flycatcher - 1

First found by Arlene Koch on 24 Nov, when seen briefly,  
and later seen by several others on subsequent days.

The report came to me on 26 Nov, and I came  
as soon as possible the following day.

After searching for about 1 hr, I relocated the bird  
across the street from Arlene's house. It was  
preening on a low, exposed perch in a multi-flora rose  
at the margin of a large field. After studying the  
bird with my scope for ~1 min, the bird flew directly  
to Arlene's house. We both had excellent study  
of the bird at close range (7-10 m) as it fed  
in a small tree of autumn olive. It perched  
quietly some of this time after having eaten  
several berries off the autumn olive. With my  
30x Optolyth scope, backlit conditions, and low

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27 November (cont.)

Pennsylvania: Northampton Co., near Raubsville  
(description of Ash-thr. Fly. cont.)

perch of the bird, we had perfect opportunity  
to study the bird up to 20 minutes before  
it flew off.

Size & shape: medium to large flycatcher, just smaller  
than nearby mockingbird; long tail, medium  
length hooked bill; broad, gentle bushy crest  
held appressed most of the time; wing tips  
on of folded wing came about <sup>to</sup> base of tail just  
beyond uppertail coverts

head & upperparts: crown dull, medium brown, the feathers  
with dusky central streak (creating diffuse streaked or  
spotted pattern); auriculars brownish-gray and blending  
to pale grayish (whitish-gray) of throat, this color  
extending to hindneck and contrasting with brownish  
back (slight olivaceous cast); rump somewhat darker  
than back; uppertail coverts dark brown with  
cinnamon-rufous margins.

wings: primaries and outermost secondaries with  
rufous edging on outer web, creating rufous panel  
in wing; ~~on~~ most of secondaries, including innermost  
edged with whitish; the large, oval innermost  
secondaries (called tertials by some) were clearly  
only margined with white, the innermost being  
dark brown with thin margin of white.



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27 November (cont.)

Pennsylvania: Northampton Co., near Raubsville

(description of Ash-thr. Flyc. cont.)

Greater coverts dark with yellowish white tips. Median coverts similar with pale tips somewhat more restricted (these forming the 2 wing bars seen on this bird); primary coverts dark brown; lesser coverts appeared also to have narrow whitish tips forming a vague 3<sup>rd</sup> upper wing bar (this often covered by scapulars).

tail: I carefully studied the tail from above and below. This bird clearly had completed ~~pre~~ basic molt, having fairly fresh rectrices and, if a bird of the year, having replaced any juvenal rectrices. ~~Outer~~ Outer web of all rectrices dark brown; inner web rufous - except central pair, which were all brown. As the bird preened and we were at close range, the dark brown color of the outer webs could be seen hooking across tip of each rectrix (except, of course, inners). The folded tail from above appeared all brown, but from below (outer most pair being seen) a central area of rufous was bounded by dark outer frame that wrapped around and crossed at tip of tail. The right outermost rectrix had only a vague impression of dark crossing tip, atypical (I thought it might

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27 November (cont.)

Pennsylvania: Northampton Co., near Raubsville

(description of Ash-thr. Flycatcher) cont.)

be a retained juvenal rectrix except it clearly was dark brown on the outer web and truncate not rounded at tip unlike juvenal Myiarchus rectrices. Underparts: chin, throat, and breast a clear, pale whitish gray blending imperceptibly with pale lemon wash from lower breast to undertail coverts.

Base parts: Bill black, with somewhat paler (brownish) base to lower mandible; mouth lining pinkish though stained reddish by autumn olive berries. Eye: irides rich brown against black pupil. legs: dark gray. Bill was long and tubular with slight hook at tip; it was relatively slender.

Identification: Clearly an Ash-throated Flycatcher in my opinion, though I would have liked to hear a call (Arlene described it as a "rolled 'pip'"). Great Crested Fly - less likely at this time year than Ash-thr. - should have shown an obvious white slash on the outer half of outer web to innermost secondary (=tertiary); this bird clearly lacked this diagnostic mark of Great Crest. The feathers were not worn, so it is unlikely the white was worn off. Nevertheless, it is

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27 November (cont.)

Pennsylvania: Northampton Co., near Rantsville

(description of Ash-thr. Fly, cont.)

The presence of this bold white mark that is diagnostic, not its absence. Therefore, the tail pattern and throat-breast color are important for eliminating Great Crested.

The dark tips to the rectrices and pale throat and belly clearly eliminate G-C (also lack of olive cast to back & narrow bill)

Brown-crested also should be considered on any vagrant Myiarchus in the east. The bill was too slender for Great Crest and either the big-billed magister Brown-cr. or smaller-billed cooperi Brown-cr. Tail pattern and grayer cheeks also eliminate Brown-cr.

Arden's description of call, also diagnostic Ash-thr.

This apparently is the 1<sup>st</sup> record for Pennsylvania. No doubt long over-due for this most regular of western vagrants to the East in late fall.

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Pennsylvania: Northampton Co., near Rantsville (3 mi W rte)

27 November

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1:50-2:10 close study of Ash-thr Fly at

Arden Koch's 1357 Rantsville Rd.

preening

foraging in autumn olive

sunning

irides brown

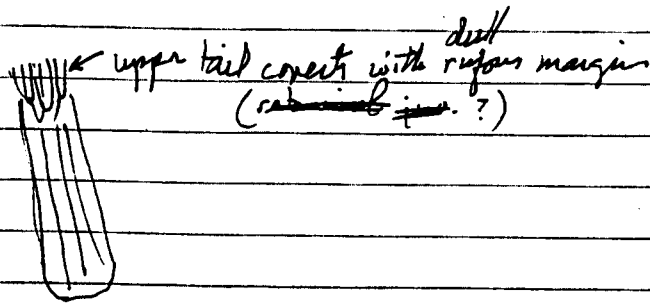
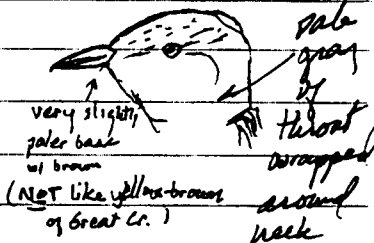
ventral view



↑

right outermost  
rectrix -

rufous to tip but next rectrix in did have along shaft dark hook w/ only slight dark across tip



very base of bill slightly brown

(notes taken at observations)



**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round One**

Species: Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

Date of Sighting: 24 November 1997 to 4 December 1997

Location: WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP

County: NORTHAMPTON

Observer(s): Arlene Koch, Frank Haas, Louis Bevier, Rick Wiltraut

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Frank Haas, Louis Bevier, Rick Wiltraut

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES      PHOTO YES      SPECIMEN NO      RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman			X					
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes	X							
J. McWilliams	X							
B. Reid	X							
P. Rodewald	X							
TOTALS	4		2					1
DECISION	X							

Comments: 6/0/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 1/14/01